



## There Is Breath In Every Still

On the first page of "Armenia Today" in the right-hand corner at the bottom you can meet the name of Gagik Haroutyunian, a photomaster, who for several years has been decorating our magazine with his works.

Expressive, full of life and breathing, photographs of the master are coming into existence in the hushed semidarkness of the room. At such minutes you even do not try to get into the laboratory, all the same, nothing will come of it. Of course, you can knock, but nobody will open the door, for Gagik is not there. He is carried away into the world of the most interesting ideas and subjects exposed on a sheet of photopaper. One, who has ever been fond of taking photos cannot be indifferent to the "magic", materializing each time in the red light due to a developer. At first, one sees a hardly visible silhouette of a mysterious picture, then, all of a sudden, the darkish spots situated in a strict order turn into a print reflecting the instance. But where is the border between a simple passion and real art, the border behind which the still instance vivifies making us muse on many problems and live the

minutes of the past together with the artist? Correct application of technics enables a photographer to take correct photos, but a genuine artist is the one gifted with a talent for photography. Life says that the talent of photographer exists as well as that of painter, of writer or of musician. And it is the talent that brightens up the works by Gagik Haroutyunian: be it a landscape, a portrait for a report or a simple sketch. Gagik is capable of quick orientation and correct understanding, he can fathom into the essentials of the character of objects to be shot, and he feels the composition, the light and the colouring of the future shot.

For the first time Gagik took the camera into his hands when he was a pupil of a primary school. Then it was a kind of amusement – press the button and hear a click. But the years passed away. Gagik left behind the secondary school as well as the machine-tool technical one. He seemed to make his start in life and to choose his favourite occupation. But reminiscences of his childhood again and again direct his thoughts towards the small and bright camera, and after two or three successful, as

he thought, attempts the art of photography seriously captures him, and Gagik devotes it, first his free hours, then his working ones, for soon he becomes a professional photomaster.

He works for the paper, travels about the republic, meets and speaks with different people – all these impressions enable him to gradually acquire and enlarge his experience of a newspaper photographer. But to the most extent his abilities manifested themselves during his work in the Armenian Friendship Society where he was invited five years ago. Since that time he interchanges his travels about the republic with those abroad... And wherever he was, be it a district of the republic or Denmark, a small Armenian village in the highlands or Montmartre, Leningrad or Athens, everywhere his tireless camera is in operation solving ever new problems of creation and art.

Gagik Haroutyunian is 33 years old. It is an age when a great deal is still to be done. Now he is preparing his one-man exhibition abroad. And we wish him great success in his creative activity.

**Hrant PANIAN**

